

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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**For Immediate Release**  
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**PLYMOUTH MAN FOUND GUILTY, SENTENCED TO  
18-20 YEARS IN STATE PRISON FOR SHOOTING HIS SON**

**BROCKTON, MA --** Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz announced today that Richard Panepinto, 58, of Plymouth, was convicted today of two counts of armed assault with intent to murder, one count of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon causing serious bodily injury, one count of carrying a firearm without a license, one count of carrying a loaded firearm without a license, one count of unlawful possession of ammunition, and one count of discharging a firearm within 500 feet of a dwelling. A Plymouth County jury took about 30 minutes to reach guilty verdicts on all counts following a 6 day trial before the Honorable Richard Chin at the Brockton Superior Court. The trial began May 11<sup>th</sup>. The Commonwealth was represented by Assistant District Attorneys Russ Eonas and Shanan Buckingham.

The Commonwealth presented evidence that on January 17, 2012, Panepinto shot his then 15 year old son, Shawn Panepinto, in the driveway of their home at 24 Jamie's Path, Plymouth at about 5:20 pm when Shawn arrived home from basketball practice. Panepinto fired twice- once from behind which struck Shawn's backpack containing his schoolbooks and the second from only a few feet away which struck him in the lower abdomen and damaged his colon and kidney. Several neighbors rushed to Shawn's aid immediately after the shooting. Shawn underwent life-saving surgery immediately afterwards at the Boston Medical Center. After shooting Shawn, Panepinto shot himself in the abdomen.

The jury heard that Panepinto was motivated by frustration and a feeling of loneliness and depression following a 2010 divorce from Shawn's mother, Janet Panepinto. ADA Eonas argued that Panepinto intended to kill Shawn to exact revenge upon Janet so that she too, would understand what it was like to be lonely. Panepinto contended that he was insane at the time due to depression, paranoia and loss of impulse control due to post-concussion syndrome.

At sentencing, Janet Panepinto read a statement to the court and Shawn's aunt, Tracy White, read a statement written by Shawn on his behalf. The impassioned statements described the enormous effect that Panepinto's actions took on the family and Shawn in particular. Judge Chin told Janet that it wasn't her fault- the person responsible, Panepinto, was to be punished. Judge Chin sentenced Panepinto to 18 to 20 years in State Prison on both armed assault charges and 2 1/2 to 5 years on the carrying a firearm charge to run concurrently and to 10 years

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of probation on the assault and battery with a dangerous weapon charge. Twenty years in State Prison is the maximum penalty for the armed assault charges. On the remainder of the charges, Panepinto was sentenced to the House of Correction with the sentences deemed served while in custody awaiting trial. At sentencing, Judge Chin commented that it was one of the worst cases of armed assault to murder he has seen and that it was very lucky it was not a homicide case.

The case was investigated by State Police Detectives assigned to the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office, Plymouth Police Department detectives and patrolmen, and the State Police crime scene services and firearms identification sections.

"The actions of Mr. Panepinto on that day in January 2012 forever changed his son's life," DA Cruz said. "I am hopeful that today's verdict and sentencing help bring some peace back to this family."

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